

## Message Text

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SUBJECT: THIRD PREPCOM FOR TCDC CONFERENCE: FINAL  
REPORT AND SUMMARY, MAY 15-19, 1978

REF: (A) USUN 2029, (B) USUN 1969

1. SUMMARY: THE THIRD SESSION OF THE TCDC PREPCOM  
COMPLETED ITS WORK QUIETLY AND WITH AN UNUSUAL DEGREE OF  
UNANIMITY. THE LONG-AWAITED G-77 STATEMENT WAS MILD AND  
CONSERVATIVE. IN THE WORDS OF THE CHAIRMAN, THE DRAFT  
PLAN OF ACTION WILL HAVE TO BE REVISED, RESTRUCTURED AND  
REORIENTED. THE MORE EXTREME AND ALL-EMBRACING APPROACH  
BROACHED IN THE KUWAIT DECLARATION AND ASSIDUOUSLY ADVANCED  
BY DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL ABDEL-MEGUID WAS ALL BUT  
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REJECTED. INSTEAD, THE PREPCOM RETURNED TO THE ORIGINAL  
CONCEPT OF TCDC AND OPTED FOR GREATER BILATERAL COOPERATION  
AND THIRD COUNTRY FINANCING. HAVING RETREATED TO ITS  
EARLIER AGREED POSITION, THE COMMITTEE NOW SEEMS FACED  
WITH A WORLD "CONFERENCE IN SEARCH OF A SUBJECT".

2. THE G-77 STATEMENT: THROUGHOUT THE FIVE-DAY SESSION  
OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE CONFERENCE ON TECHNICAL  
COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THE THIRD WORLD  
DELEGATIONS CAUCUSSED IN SEARCH OF COMMON GROUND. ON THE

FINAL AFTERNOON, JAMAICA AS G-77 SPOKESMAN READ A STATEMENT CALLING FOR REVISION OF THE DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION (P/A) BUT RESERVING THE POSITION ON ANY REVISION FOR ALL INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES. THE STATEMENT DESCRIBED CERTAIN ELEMENTS IN THE P/A AS GOING BEYOND THE SCOPE OF TCDC AND EVEN AS POSSIBLY INFRINGING NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY. BOTH DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND THE ENTIRE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM WERE URGED TO SUPPORT TCDC WHILE UNDP WAS SIGNALLED OUT AS REQUIRING A CLEARLY DEFINED ROLE. THE G-77 HELD IT TO BE ESSENTIAL THAT A NEW P/A EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF PROMOTING BILATERAL COOPERATION. INCREASED MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE EFFECTED THROUGH APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS SUCH AS THIRD COUNTRY FINANCING AND THE UNTYING OF BILATERAL AID WHICH LDCS MIGHT THEN USE IN TCDC AGREEMENTS. FUNDING OF TCDC SHOULD COME THROUGH THE UN SYSTEM AND ESPECIALLY THROUGH UNDP--AN APPROACH CONSISTENT WITH THE CLEAR PREFERENCE FOR UTILIZING THE EXISTING UN MACHINERY, PARTICULARLY THAT OF UNDP, TO PROMOTE TCDC. FINALLY, THE G-77 URGED EXPEDITIOUS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TCDC WORKING GROUP (DP/69 OF 1974 AS FINALLY ADOPTED IN JUNE 1977 AND CONFIRMED AT THE 32ND UNGA). THE SPOKESMAN CLOSED BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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PROPOSING THAT THE REVISED P/A BE AVAILABLE BY THE END OF JUNE TO PERMIT PROPER REVIEW PRIOR TO THE CONFERENCE THIS FALL.

3. THE SUMMATION: FRANKLY CONCERNED ABOUT SUMMARIZING A DEBATE WHICH, DESPITE WIDE AGREEMENT, CONTAINED SOME DISPARATE ELEMENTS, COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SLOBODAN RISTIC (YUGOSLAVIA) CHOSE TO OFFER HIS OWN CONTRIBUTION. THE DRAFT P/A WOULD HAVE TO BE "REVISED, RESTRUCTURED AND REORIENTED". TCDC IS NOT AN END IN ITSELF. RATHER THAN REPLACING EXISTING TECHNICAL COOPERATION, TCDC SHOULD COMPLEMENT IT. BILATERAL COOPERATION AMONG LDCS MUST BE FURTHER DEVELOPED AS PART OF THE PROCESS. THE RESPECTIVE ROLES OF THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS AND OF THE UNDP SHOULD BE DEFINED. REGARDING THE LATTER, DELEGATES HAD STRESSED THE USE OF EXISTING AGENCIES TO FOSTER TCDC. AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP SHOULD FOLLOW UP ON DECISIONS AFTER THE CONFERENCE. THERE SHOULD BE CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS ON THE ROLE OF FINANCING AGENCIES AND OF THAT OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. FINALLY, THE CONFERENCE SHOULD LEAD TO ADOPTION BY THE UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL AND BY OTHER GOVERNING BODIES WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM OF THEIR OWN TCDC P/AS.

4. IN THE CLOSING MINUTES OF THE SESSION, THE PRC SOUGHT TO LINK TCDC FIRMLY TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER -- SOMETHING WHICH THE G-77 STATEMENT

IGNORED. THE FRG RESERVED ITS POSITION ON THE TEXT OF A REVISED P/A SINCE THERE WERE NO DECISIONS TAKEN ON ITS CONTENT OR WORDING. AND THE USSR UNWISELY AND UNSUCCESSFULLY SOUGHT TO PROHIBIT RECOGNITION OF THE G-77 STATEMENT ON THE DUBIOUS GROUNDS THAT IT CAME AFTER THE GENERAL DEBATE ON THE DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION.

5. THE YUGOSLAV DELEGATE POINTEDLY INFORMED USDEL THAT ABDEL-MEGUID WAS BEING OFFERED THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE IMPORTANT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE WHICH WILL NEGOTIATE A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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FINAL PLAN OF ACTION. YUGOSLAVIA IS CLEARLY ANNOYED BY THIS DEVELOPMENT IN VIEW OF THE ALMOST UNIVERSAL REJECTION OF THE DRAFT P/A WHICH IS LARGELY ATTRIBUTED TO ABDEL-MEGUID. THE ANNOYANCE WAS HEIGHTENED BY THE RUMOR THAT ABDEL-MEGUID WAS TELLING THE TCDC SPECIAL UNIT THAT THE PREPCOM DEBATE ADDED UP TO THE NEED FOR ONLY PATCH-WORK CHANGES IN THE DRAFT P/A.

6. REFTEL A WAS IN ERROR. THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA IS REQUESTING NOTIFICATION OF THE COMPOSITION OF DELEGATIONS TO THE TCDC CONFERENCE BY JULY 3L.

7. COMMENT: WITH AN UNUSUAL AND ENCOURAGING DEGREE OF UNANIMITY, THE THIRD PREPCOM MOVED THE DISCUSSION OF TCDC BACK INTO ITS TRADITIONAL PATTERNS BY REJECTING THE EXPANSIVE AND POLITICALLY CONTROVERSIAL APPROACH ADOPTED BY THE UNDP STAFF UNDER THE DIRECTION OF ABDEL-MEGUID. THE DEBATE WAS CONDUCTED BY 26 DELEGATIONS EVENLY DIVIDED AMONG DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING MEMBER STATES, ALTHOUGH THE COMMITTEE SESSION WAS ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF 104 COUNTRIES. RECURRENT THEMES INCLUDED THE COMPLEMENTARITY OF TCDC TO TRADITIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, THE ESSENTIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LDCS FOR TCDC, AN EMPHASIS ON BILATERAL COOPERATION BETWEEN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPLEMENTING THE TCDC CONCEPT THROUGH EXISTING UN MECHANISMS. EXTRAORDINARY FUNDING FOR TCDC WAS MENTIONED BUT NOT CLEARLY SPELLED OUT BY SEVERAL LDC SPEAKERS. THE AGREEMENTS REACHED ON THE WORKING GROUP REPORT ON TCDC WERE RE-ENDORSED. ANY DESIGN TO REORIENT THE UN SYSTEM FOR THE BENEFIT OF SPECIFIC GROUPS OR CATEGORIES OF COUNTRIES WAS SPECIFICALLY OPPOSED. THE CREATION OF AN OECD-STYLED BODY FOR THE LDCS WAS VIEWED AS APPROPRIATE ONLY OUTSIDE THE UN CONTEXT.  
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8. REVIEWING THE OUTCOME OF THE THIRD SESSION AND HAVING

IN MIND THE AGREEMENTS ON TCDC IN THE 24TH SESSION OF THE

UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL (JUNE, 1977), ONE EXPERIENCED DELEGATE SPOKE PRIVATELY OF A CONFERENCE IN SEARCH OF A SUBJECT. SEVERAL WESTERN DELEGATIONS HAVE VOICED SKEPTICISM ABOUT THE UTILITY OF THE CONFERENCE OR THE QUALITY OF ITS ANTICIPATED RESULTS. IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE EXTREMISM OF THE KUWAIT DECLARATION AND ITS REFLECTION IN A PLAN OF ACTION HAS BEEN PUT TO REST. HOWEVER, IT IS ALWAYS POSSIBLE THAT THE EXPECTED EGYPTIAN REPRESENTATIVE (ABDEL-MEGUID) AND HIS LIKE-MINDED COLLEAGUES IN THE THIRD WORLD COULD RE-INTRODUCE SOME OF THAT PERVASIVE AND POLEMICAL APPROACH. IN ANY EVENT, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE COUNTRIES STANDING TO BENEFIT MOST FROM CONVENTIONAL TCDC (E.G., ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, INDIA, YUGOSLAVIA) ARE DETERMINED NOT TO UPSET THEIR CHANCES BY RADICAL THEMES, ELABORATE INFRASTRUCTURE OR CONTROVERSIAL PROPOSALS. VANCE

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